

The Senate Natural Resources and the Environment Committee offered the following substitute to HR 1226:

A RESOLUTION

1 Authorizing and directing the Department of Natural Resources to initiate a "Georgia Quail
2 Trail" and creating the Georgia Quail Trail Advisory Council; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the bobwhite quail, Georgia's state game bird and known also as the "Prince of
4 Game Birds," is one of the most recognized and popular natural symbols of this state, and quail
5 hunting in Georgia is a time-honored tradition; and

6 WHEREAS, supporting the quail hunting industry in this state provides jobs in and supports
7 recreation, tourism, retail sales, timber production, and agricultural sectors, and the economic
8 multiplier effect of quail hunting is paramount to the success of both rural and urban service
9 sectors in Georgia; and

10 WHEREAS, promoting quail hunting provides benefits to other game and nongame species
11 dependent on quality bobwhite quail habitat and validates the need to protect and conserve
12 wildlife habitat critical to bobwhite quail and other species; and

13 WHEREAS, initiating a "Georgia Quail Trail" program that will link hunters to quail hunting
14 opportunities in this state by identifying, showcasing, and promoting quail hunting venues and
15 opportunities in this state will sustain and expand the economic benefits of quail hunting in this
16 state and provide additional business, hunting, recreational, and educational opportunities; and

17 WHEREAS, initiating a "Georgia Quail Trail" program will also support the Georgia Bobwhite
18 Quail Initiative, which is a voluntary and experimental program to restore quality early
19 successional habitat for bobwhite quail and other wildlife, improve water quality, and reduce
20 soil erosion and which was developed by the Board of Natural Resources in consultation with
21 key members of the General Assembly and implemented by the Wildlife Resources Division
22 of the Department of Natural Resources.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2 OF GEORGIA:

3 **SECTION 1.**

4 The Department of Natural Resources is authorized and directed to initiate not later than June
5 30, 2007, a "Georgia Quail Trail" program through the department's website that will link
6 hunters to quail hunting opportunities in this state by identifying, showcasing, and promoting
7 quail hunting venues and opportunities in this state, subject to funds being available to the
8 department for such purposes. All revenues derived from the sale of advertising or promotion
9 from the Georgia Quail Trail or the Georgia Quail Trail Advisory Council shall be paid into the
10 general fund of the state treasury.

11 **SECTION 2.**

12 There is created the Georgia Quail Trail Advisory Council in order to establish and identify
13 quail hunting industry needs and advise how to best meet the demand for linking hunters to
14 quail hunting opportunities in this state. The council shall consist of 12 members. Two of the
15 members of the council shall be the chairperson of the Senate Natural Resources and the
16 Environment Committee or his or her designee and the chairperson the House Committee on
17 Game, Fish, and Parks or his or her designee, each of whom shall serve as co-chairs of the
18 council. Two members of the council shall be the chairpersons of the Senate Economic
19 Development Committee and the House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism.
20 Each co-chair shall appoint four additional councilmembers, for a total of eight appointed
21 members consisting of at least one appointee from each of the five following entities,
22 organizations, or groups: the Wildlife Resources Division of the Department of Natural
23 Resources, the Department of Economic Development, the Georgia chapter of Quail
24 Unlimited (one member from the northern part of this state and one member from the southern
25 part of this state), the Georgia Wildlife Federation, and active quail hunting industries and
26 related services. Such appointments shall be made not later than 90 days after this resolution
27 becomes effective, and the first meeting of the council shall be held not later than 120 days
28 after this resolution becomes effective. The council may conduct such meetings at such times
29 and places as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively
30 perform its duties and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Neither the
31 legislative members of the council nor private individuals shall receive any compensation for
32 their service on the council. Members of the council who are state officials, other than
33 legislative members, and state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on
34 the council, but they shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the performance of
35 their duties as members of the council in the same manner as they are reimbursed for expenses

1 in their capacities as state officials or employees. The funds necessary for the reimbursement
2 of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative members, and state employees shall
3 come from funds appropriated to or otherwise available to their respective departments. In the
4 event the council makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for
5 proposed legislation or measures for economic development and tourism, if any, such report
6 shall be made on or before August 1, 2006. The council shall stand abolished on December
7 1, 2006.

8 **SECTION 3.**

9 This resolution Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its
10 becoming law without such approval.